

LEGISLATIVE BILL 470

Approved by the Governor February 13, 2014

Introduced by Scheer, 19; Davis, 43; Watermeier, 1; Nordquist, 7; Pirsch, 4.

FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to amend section 13-504, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2013; to change provisions relating to proposed budget statements; to adopt the Superintendent Pay Transparency Act; to provide an operative date; to repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 13-504, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2013, is amended to read:

13-504 (1) Each governing body shall annually or biennially prepare a proposed budget statement on forms prescribed and furnished by the auditor. The proposed budget statement shall be made available to the public by the political subdivision prior to publication of the notice of the hearing on the proposed budget statement pursuant to section 13-506. A proposed budget statement shall contain the following information, except as provided by state law:

(a) For the immediately preceding fiscal year or biennial period, the revenue from all sources, including motor vehicle taxes, other than revenue received from personal and real property taxation, allocated to the funds and separately stated as to each such source: The unencumbered cash balance at the beginning and end of the year or biennial period; the amount received by taxation of personal and real property; and the amount of actual expenditures;

(b) For the current fiscal year or biennial period, actual and estimated revenue from all sources, including motor vehicle taxes, allocated to the funds and separately stated as to each such source: The actual unencumbered cash balance available at the beginning of the year or biennial period; the amount received from personal and real property taxation; and the amount of actual and estimated expenditures, whichever is applicable. Such statement shall contain the cash reserve for each fiscal year or biennial period and shall note whether or not such reserve is encumbered. Such cash reserve projections shall be based upon the actual experience of prior years or biennial periods. The cash reserve shall not exceed fifty percent of the total budget adopted exclusive of capital outlay items;

(c) For the immediately ensuing fiscal year or biennial period, an estimate of revenue from all sources, including motor vehicle taxes, other than revenue to be received from taxation of personal and real property, separately stated as to each such source: The actual or estimated unencumbered cash balances, whichever is applicable, to be available at the beginning of the year or biennial period; the amounts proposed to be expended during the year or biennial period; and the amount of cash reserve, based on actual experience of prior years or biennial periods, which cash reserve shall not exceed fifty percent of the total budget adopted exclusive of capital outlay items;

(d) A statement setting out separately the amount sought to be raised from the levy of a tax on the taxable value of real property (i) for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on bonds issued by the governing body and (ii) for all other purposes;

(e) A uniform summary of the proposed budget statement, including each proprietary function fund included in a separate proprietary budget statement prepared pursuant to the Municipal Proprietary Function Act, and a grand total of all funds maintained by the governing body; ~~and~~

(f) For municipalities, a list of the proprietary functions which are not included in the budget statement. Such proprietary functions shall have a separate budget statement which is approved by the city council or village board as provided in the Municipal Proprietary Function Act; ~~and-~~

(g) For school districts and educational service units, a separate identification and description of all current and future costs to the school district or educational service unit which are reasonably anticipated as a result of any contract, and any adopted amendments thereto, for superintendent services to be rendered to such school district or administrator services to be rendered to such educational service unit.

(2) The actual or estimated unencumbered cash balance required to be included in the budget statement by this section shall include deposits and investments of the political subdivision as well as any funds held by the county treasurer for the political subdivision and shall be accurately stated

on the proposed budget statement.

(3) The political subdivision shall correct any material errors in the budget statement detected by the auditor or by other sources.

Sec. 2. Sections 2 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Superintendent Pay Transparency Act.

Sec. 3. (1) Before the school board of any school district or the board of any educational service unit approves a proposed contract, or any proposed amendment to an existing contract, for future superintendent services to be rendered to such school district by the current superintendent or future administrator services to be rendered to such educational service unit by the current administrator, the board shall publish a copy of such proposed contract or amendment, and a reasonable estimate and description of all current and future costs to the school district or educational service unit if the proposed contract or amendment were to be approved, at least three days before the meeting of the board at which such proposed contract or amendment will be considered. Such publication shall also specify the date, time, and place of the public meeting at which the proposed contract or amendment will be considered. Electronic publication on the web site of the school district or educational service unit shall satisfy the requirement of this subsection if such electronic publication is prominently displayed and allows public access to the entire proposed contract or amendment.

(2) After the school board of any school district or the board of any educational service unit approves a contract for future superintendent services to be rendered to such school district by a new superintendent or future administrator services to be rendered to such educational service unit by a new administrator, the board shall publish a copy of such contract, and a reasonable estimate and description of all current and future costs to the school district or educational service unit that will be incurred as a result of such contract, within two days after the meeting of the board at which such contract was approved. Electronic publication on the web site of the school district or educational service unit shall satisfy the requirement of this subsection if such electronic publication is prominently displayed and allows public access to the entire contract.

Sec. 4. After approval of a contract, or any amendments thereto, for superintendent services or educational service unit administrator services, the approving board shall file a copy of such contract or amendment with the State Department of Education on or before the next succeeding August 1. The department shall have no duty to review such contracts or amendments but shall publicly post all such contracts or amendments received on the web site of the department.

Sec. 5. If the school board of any school district or the board of any educational service unit fails to timely file a copy of an approved contract, or contract amendment, for superintendent services or educational service unit administrator services with the State Department of Education as required in section 4 of this act, the Commissioner of Education, after notice to the board president and either the superintendent or educational service unit administrator and an opportunity to be heard, shall direct that any state aid granted pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act to the school district or core services and technology infrastructure funds granted pursuant to section 79-1241.03 to the educational service unit be withheld until such time as the contract or amendment is received by the department. In addition, the commissioner shall direct each county treasurer of a county with territory in the school district or educational service unit to withhold all money belonging to the school district or educational service unit until such time as the commissioner notifies such county treasurer of receipt of such contract or amendment. Each such county treasurer shall withhold such money. For school districts that are members of learning communities, a determination of school money belonging to the school district shall be based on the proportionate share of property tax receipts allocated to the school district pursuant to section 79-1073 in addition to the other property tax receipts belonging to the school district. If the board does not comply with this section prior to October 1 following the school fiscal year for which the state aid or core services and technology infrastructure funding was calculated, the funds shall revert to the General Fund. The amount of any reverted funds shall be included in data provided to the Governor, the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, and the Education Committee of the Legislature in accordance with section 79-1031.

Sec. 6. All amendments to a contract for superintendent services or educational service unit administrator services shall be subject to the Superintendent Pay Transparency Act, including, but not limited to, amendments involving salary increases or benefit changes.

Sec. 7. This act becomes operative on July 1, 2014.

Sec. 8. Original section 13-504, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2013, is repealed.

Sec. 9. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.